

to lower taxes—in fact, we should raise them; Medicare is just fine the way it is, put a Band-Aid on it and it will be OK; and we ought to leave the welfare system just the way it is today. Obviously, these two views take the country into the new century very differently. If we leave things the way they are, I think we are turning our back on the American people.

Coming back to my point, though, about the contentious debate, I was with a group of people from my State last week. I was very interested, as they tried to sort out these two presentations, change or leave it the way it is, and I purposely asked them were they aware of the Medicare trustees' report? They really were not.

Then I asked them: Do you know about the bipartisan entitlement commission work that was issued earlier this year? They had not even heard of that.

So the point I would like to make this morning to every citizen who may be listening is, in addition to listening to this debate, which is historic, on their own they ought to get a copy of the bipartisan entitlement commission report, which was chaired by Senator KERREY, a Democrat, and Senator DANFORTH, a Republican, appointed by President Clinton, and they should for themselves read the report, or scan it. Beyond listening to the debate going on back and forth, go get a copy of the report. It was issued early this year. Get a copy of the Medicare trustees' report for themselves and their family and look at what it says. That is not a political ad. That is not a political speech. That is just an objective statement about the condition of the financial affairs of the United States. Read it for yourselves. You can skip the ads. You can almost skip these debates, but just look at the documents themselves among your own family.

What does the bipartisan entitlement commission report say? It says that within 10 years, maybe 8, maybe 12, all U.S. resources are exhausted—all of our revenues, the vast revenues of the United States are exhausted—by just five expenditures.

The five expenditures are: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal retirement, and the interest on our debt. And then there is nothing left. So we will not be arguing about the size of the Defense Department; there will not be one. And the debate that went on in the House about school lunches, we will not have to worry about that; there will not be enough to deal with it.

Five expenditures; nothing left. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Federal retirement, and the interest on our debt, and it is all gone. That ought to be a wakeup call for anybody.

Now, the Medicare trustees' report came out in April. It says the first entitlement to run out is Medicare in 2001, 6 years and it is all over; there will not be any money to write a check. And then it goes on to say the

Congress and the President need to take bold and corrective actions to make this program solvent.

The balanced budget that we will be dealing with in the next 3 to 4 weeks attacks all of these issues. It balanced the budget so it quits adding debt. That is a plus. It takes Medicare and tries to reconfigure it, save money, so that it stays solvent longer. That is a plus. It takes Medicaid and starts to restructure it and move it to the States so that it can be more efficiently run. That is a plus. It lowers taxes, which expands the economy, which makes it easier for us to deal with these problems. That is a plus.

Now, meanwhile, the President first said he was not going to give us a budget. Then he gave us a budget that was unbalanced as far as the eye could see. And then he said, "I'm going to give you a balanced budget. It will balance in 10 years." He has gone across the country saying that. And the Congressional Budget Office says that is phony, that that budget does not balance in 5 years, which he promised when he ran for President. It does not balance in 7 years, like the majority of this Congress is trying to do. And it does not balance in 10 years like he said it does. It is never balanced.

I do not think you have to be a math major to understand that if you just keep submitting budget after budget and it never balances, we are not going to solve these problems that these two reports have told America about.

Mr. President, in conclusion, let me just say that while these are sober messages and this is an important debate, we ought to remember that if the United States, this great democracy, this only superpower, takes control of its own finances and manages them, we will create unlimited opportunity for America as it comes into the new century. And we will start reaping the benefits very quickly.

We are going to lower interest rates because our budgets are balanced. That means every family that buys a car, borrows money to educate, or buys a refrigerator or new home saves money that they can use to carry out their mission in their own family. It means we are going to create millions of new jobs. And it means America is going to be strong when it comes into the new century, able to defend itself and its stature in the world and make this a more peaceful world and a more secure world for every son and daughter of America and the world itself.

Mr. President, we have everything to gain and everything to lose. And the decision about what this country is going to be as we get into the new century is going to be made on our watch. I like to tell Americans whenever I am speaking to them that they are sitting next to the American right now that is going to make the decision. We cannot pass this to another generation. We are going to make this decision.

If we do it right, we will have done what every generation of Americans

has done, protected the great democracy and given it to the future with broader and greater opportunity.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### TAX CUTS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, as an author of the \$500 per child tax credit, I want to join other Republicans this morning and am very pleased to express my support for the Senate Finance Committee's tax-cut package. I want to congratulate the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator ROTH, for keeping his pledge to fight for the entire \$245 billion tax-cut package and also for making the \$500 per child tax credit the centerpiece of the committee's plan.

This plan represents the true change that the American voters called for last November. Contrary to the long-standing belief inside the Washington beltway, tax dollars do not belong to the Government; they belong to the taxpayers. Cutting taxes is not some kind of reward to the American people; it is rightfully their money to keep.

Now, when I introduced the \$500 per child tax credit as part of my Family First legislation in 1993, I had high expectations, but I never thought we would make so much progress so quickly. But then, again, I never counted on a revolution in 1994.

As we Americans know, revolutions do occur over tax policy. Just think of the Boston Tea Party, which paved the way toward the American Revolution, which was staged over a tax of just one-half of 1 percent. Now, that does not seem like much when it is compared to the President's \$255 billion tax hike that we were fighting just 2 years ago, the largest tax increase in American history.

Then came November 1994, a second American revolution, which turned the Washington elite on their heads. With it, along with the dramatic change demanded by the voters, comes the opportunity to disprove the liberals' well-worn philosophy that your salary somehow belongs to the Government. With just one election the American people stopped this tax-and-spend trend in its tracks, and it reminded Washington to get off our backs and to get out of our back pockets.

By passing the \$500 per child tax credit, the Senate will give nearly \$500 million a year in tax relief to families in Minnesota every year. It will be \$25 billion in tax relief for Americans across this country every year. And the benefits of this tax credit will be directed where it is needed most, and that is to the middle-class Minnesotans and all Americans who work hard, pay their bills, and finance the Federal Government with their tax dollars.

But most important, we will keep the promises we made to the American people. Minnesotans elected me to the